

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-79. (canceled).

80. (new) A method in a distributed system comprised of a plurality of lookup services with associated network services and a client lookup manager, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services; and
storing said reference on said client lookup manager.

81. (new) The method according to claim 80, further comprising:
identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service;

and

storing a reference to said network service on said client lookup manager.

82. (new) The method according to claim 80, further comprising:
identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service;

and

storing said network service on said client lookup manager.

83. (new) A method in a distributed system comprised of a plurality of lookup services with associated network services and a client lookup manager with an associated cache, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to access a network service;

retrieving a reference to a lookup service from the cache, wherein said
lookup service is associated with said network service; and

sending a request to the lookup service identifying the network service to
be accessed.

84. (new) The method according to claim 83, wherein the retrieving step
further comprises searching a table of a plurality of lookup services and associated
network services for said network service.

85. (new) A method in a distributed system comprised of a plurality of lookup services with associated network services and a client lookup manager with an associated cache, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request to access a network service;
- transmitting said request to at least one of said plurality of lookup services, provided a reference to said network service is not stored in the cache; and
- retrieving a reference to a lookup service associated with the requested network service.

86. (new) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for accessing network services, the data processing system having a software cache and a plurality of lookup services available for use in the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services; and
- storing said reference on said client lookup manager.

87. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 86, further comprising:

- identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service;
- and
- storing a reference to said network service on said client lookup manager.

88. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 86, further comprising:

- identifying at least one network service associated with the lookup service;
- and
- storing said network service on said client lookup manager.

89. (new) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for accessing network services, the data

processing system having a software cache and a plurality of lookup services available for use in the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request to access a network service;
- retrieving a reference to a lookup service from the cache, wherein said lookup service is associated with said network service; and
- sending a request to the lookup service identifying the network service to be accessed.

90. (new) The computer-readable medium according to claim 89, wherein the retrieving step further comprises searching a table of a plurality of lookup services and associated network services for said network service.

91. (new) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for accessing network services, the data processing system having a software cache and a plurality of lookup services available for use in the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request to access a network service;
- transmitting said request to at least one of said plurality of lookup services, provided a reference to said network service is not stored in the cache; and
- retrieving a reference to a lookup service associated with the requested network service.

92. (new) A distributed system comprising:
a server computer with a lookup service having references to a plurality of network services; and

a client computer including a client lookup manager with an associated cache, wherein said client lookup manager:

- receives a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services; and
- stores said reference on said client lookup manager.

93. (new) A distributed system having a first computer with a client, a client lookup manager with an associated cache, and a second computer with a lookup service containing service references for accessing associated network services, the distributed system comprising:

means for receiving a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services;

and

means for storing said reference on said client lookup manager.